



Achieve with us.

"For people with intellectual, developmental and other life-affecting disabilities."

To "The Connecticut I/DD Legislative Caucus".

Thank you for letting families of people with Developmental Disabilities that are served by the Department of Developmental Services tell our stories. My name is Jamie Lazaroff. I'm a person who happens to have a Intellectual/Developmental disability. I'm the Self-Advocate Coordinator at The Arc Quinebaug Valley in Danielson, Connecticut and I also work with The Arc Connecticut state office to unify our voices. I also serve as Secretary on the Governor's Council on Developmental Services.

I was born 36 years ago with a rare chromosome defect called 18Q-. I was born with deformed legs and feet that led to 20 or more medical procedures. Right now I have 9 hours of residential supports in my home and 13 and a half hours of personal supports in my job. As with most people with a developmental disability I do not drive therefore, I need my staff to help me with my day to day life and to be an active member of my community. To keep my job and pay taxes I need supports to live past my basic needs.

So you see there are many different types of disabilities and many degrees of severity regarding these disabilities. Families need DDS to be flexible with the widest availability of choice of services. This includes Community Residential Supports (CRS), Community Living Arrangement (CLA) and existing in home supports. This also pertains to employment and various degrees of supports such as group-supported employment and individual support to work in their community. The thing to remember when you're in budget negotiations is that one size does not fit all in terms of support. All Connecticut residents with I/DD have a right to realize their full potential and to full inclusion in their own community and this is why DDS needs to be fully funded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Lazaroff
Self-Advocate Coordinator
The Arc Quinebaug Valley, Inc.
687 Cook Hill Road
Danielson, CT 06239
Phone: 860.774.2827
Fax: 860-774-4265